

**Digital
Comic
Preservation**

**Another
pointless
scan by
Kritter**

**You got a friggin' Problem
with me?!?
Yeah, I didn't think so.**

**If you like it,
then buy it!
Don't make me
come looking
for you!**



BADGER™



WHO ARE THESE GUYS, ANYWAY?



The Badger is **Norbert Sykes**, a Vietnam veteran suffering from an extremely rare multiple personality disorder, which has its origins in childhood trauma. Seven great personalities in one. The personality most frequently inhabited by Norbert, indeed almost *exclusively preferred*, is the Badger, a self-styled crime fighter who rides the highways and by-ways of America, meting out bloody justice to jaywalkers, ticket scalpers, indifferent teenaged fast food clerks, in fact, *any damn body he feels like because he's CRAZY!*

Badger is an expert at hand-to-hand combat. He began his training in Shorin-ryu but has since gone on to master dozens of obscure, esoteric, arcane, not to mention obstruse martial arts, the likes of which you seldom hear about.

He can also talk to the animals — just like Dr. Doolittle, or Lorne Greene. Only Badger gets better results than Lorne Greene.

Badger lives with **Ham the Weather Wizard** in a castle south of Barneveld, Wisconsin. Ham and Badger met while both were inmates at a state mental hospital. He hired Badger as his bodyguard, and Badger's therapist, **Daisy Fields**, became Ham's personal secretary. Through cunning and chicanery, Ham has amassed a considerable fortune.

LAST ISSUE: Badger battled a hideous demon from another dimension. But all his martial arts skills were useless against its powers, and Badger needed a little outside assistance to vanquish "Bob." Maybe he'll do better this month...

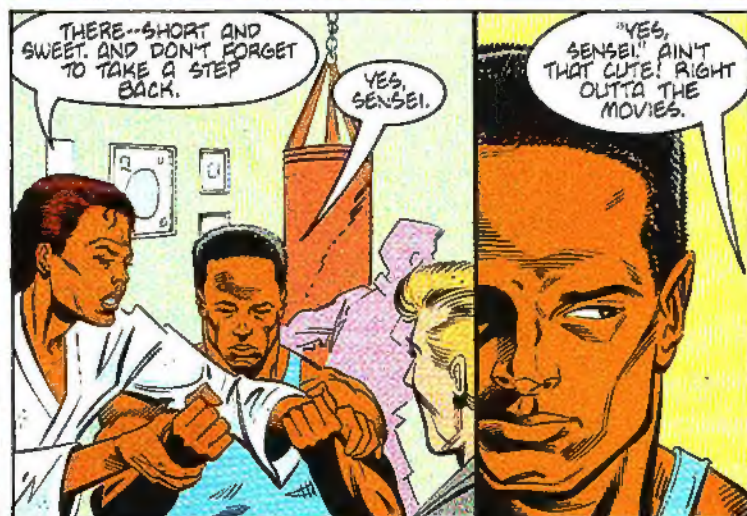
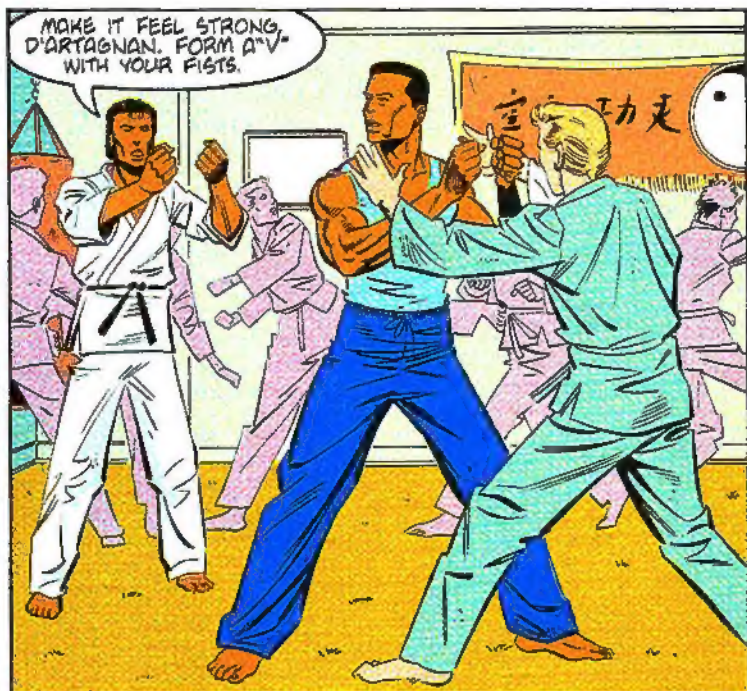
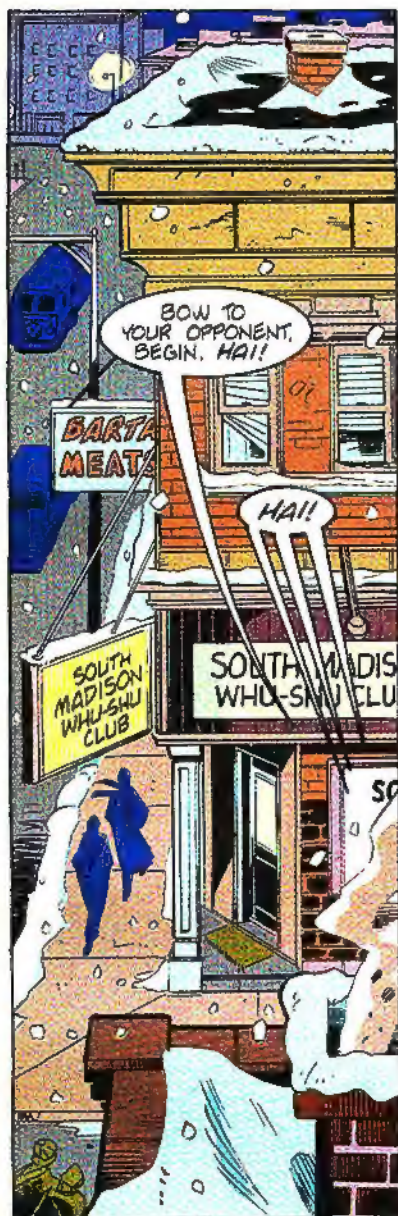
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Kathy Kotsivas, Operations Dir.
Kurt Goldzung, Sales Mgr.
Ralph Musicant, Finance Dir.

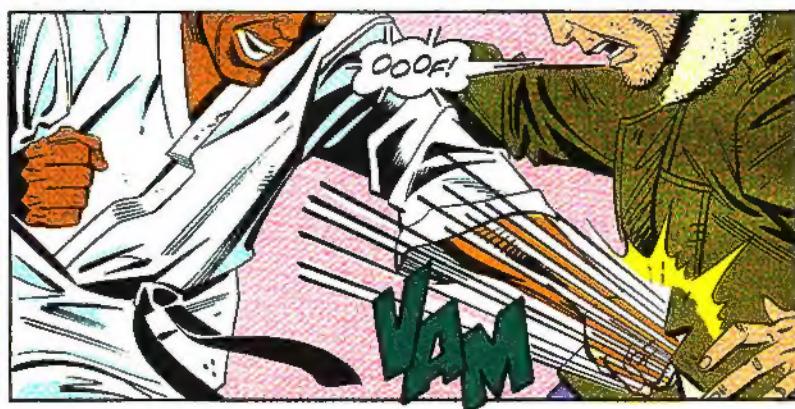
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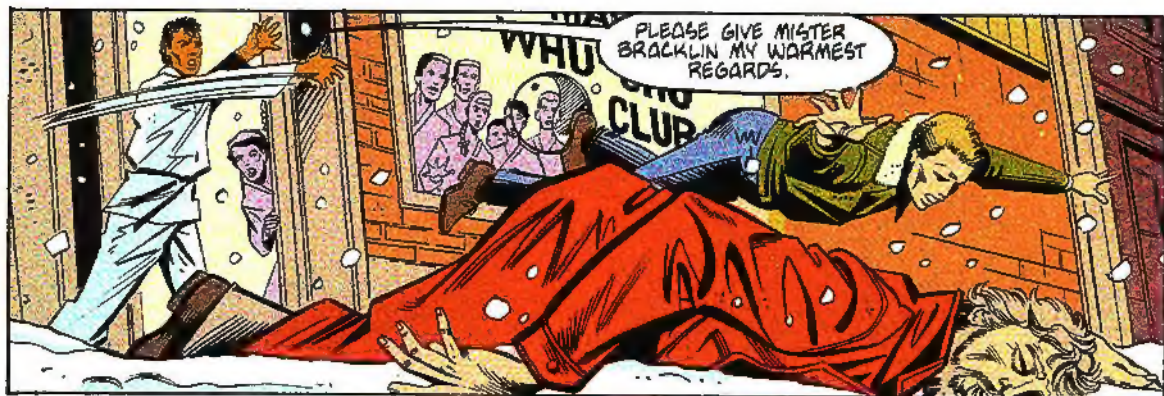
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A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION

FIRST
COMICS







PLEASE GIVE MISTER BRACKLIN MY WARMEST REGARDS.

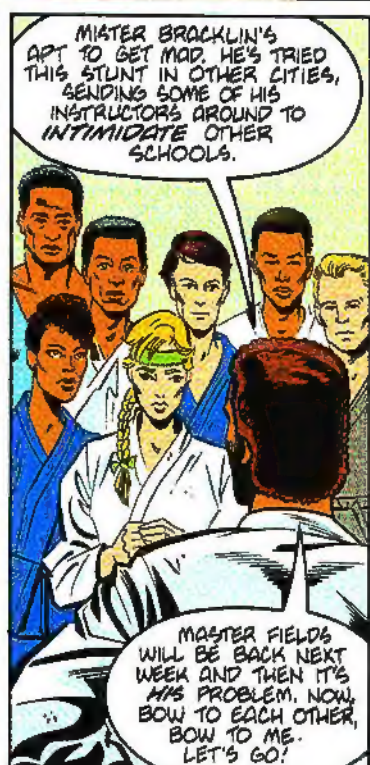


AND MAY I EXTEND AN INVITATION TO VISIT OUR CLUB. BUT OF COURSE, COURTESY IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED.



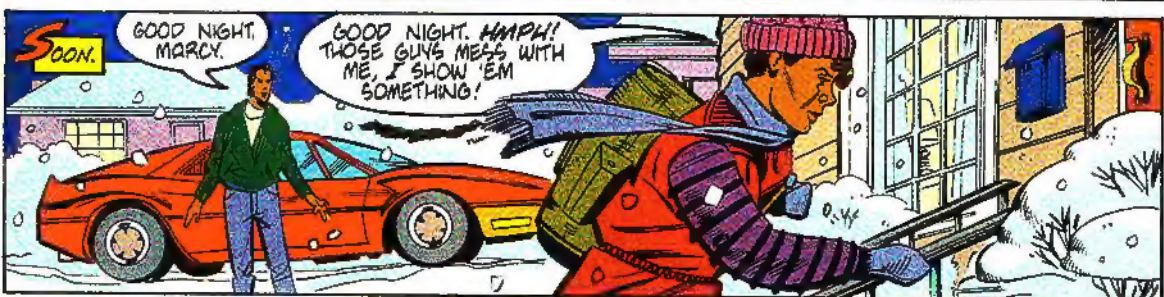
EVERYONE LINE UP. WE'RE CUTTING IT SHORT. I WANT YOU TO GO STRAIGHT HOME. I WANT YOU TO ESCORT EACH OTHER. TINA, JENNIE AND MARCY, I'LL GIVE YOU A RIDE HOME.

BUT WHY, SENSEI? YOU DON'T THINK THOSE GUYS WILL COME BACK?



MISTER BRACKLIN'S APT TO GET MAD. HE'S TRIED THIS STUNT IN OTHER CITIES, SENDING SOME OF HIS INSTRUCTORS AROUND TO INTIMIDATE OTHER SCHOOLS.

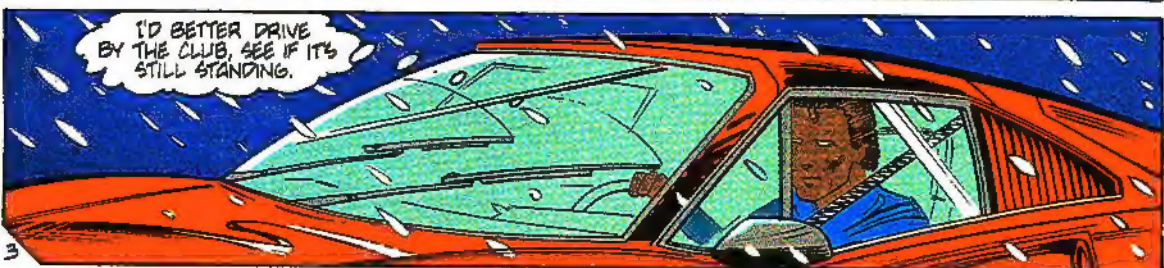
MASTER FIELDS WILL BE BACK NEXT WEEK AND THEN IT'S HIS PROBLEM. NOW, BOW TO EACH OTHER, BOW TO ME. LET'S GO!



SOON.

GOOD NIGHT, MARCY.

GOOD NIGHT. HMMH! THOSE GUYS MESS WITH ME, I SHOW 'EM SOMETHING!



I'D BETTER DRIVE BY THE CLUB, SEE IF IT'S STILL STANDING.



DARN.

BADGER™

**CHEAP
SHOT**

VIC
BRACKLIN, YOU
INVITED ME TO
STOP BY.

YEAH, AND
NOW I'M
INVITING YOU
TO CLEAN
UP THAT
WINDOW



MAKE
ME.

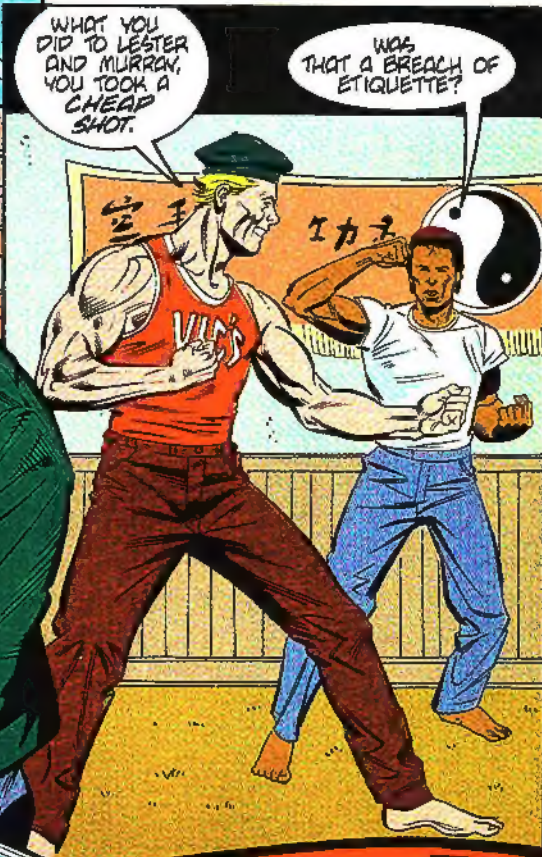
DEDICATED TO CARL POTTS.
DON'T MESS WITH THIS GUY!



(SIGH)
WE CAN DO
THIS HERE OR
INSIDE.

MAKES
NO DIFFERENCE
TO ME.

LET'S
GO INSIDE.



WHAT YOU
DID TO LESTER
AND MURRAY,
YOU TOOK A
CHEAP
SHOT.

WAS
THAT A BREACH OF
ETIQUETTE?

mike baron
script

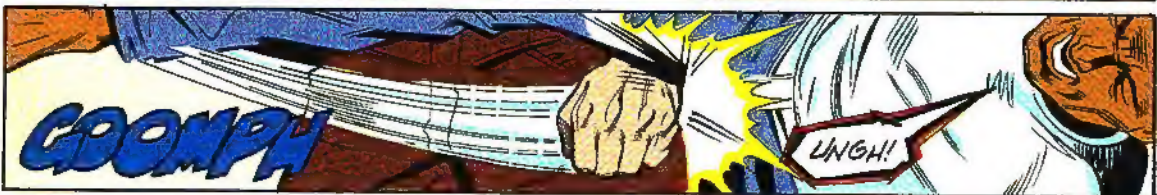
bill reinhold
pencils

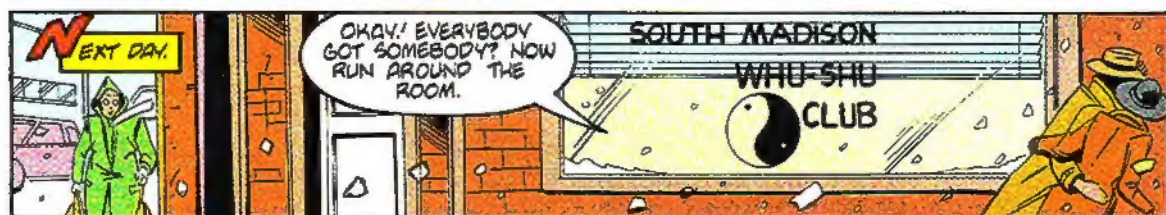
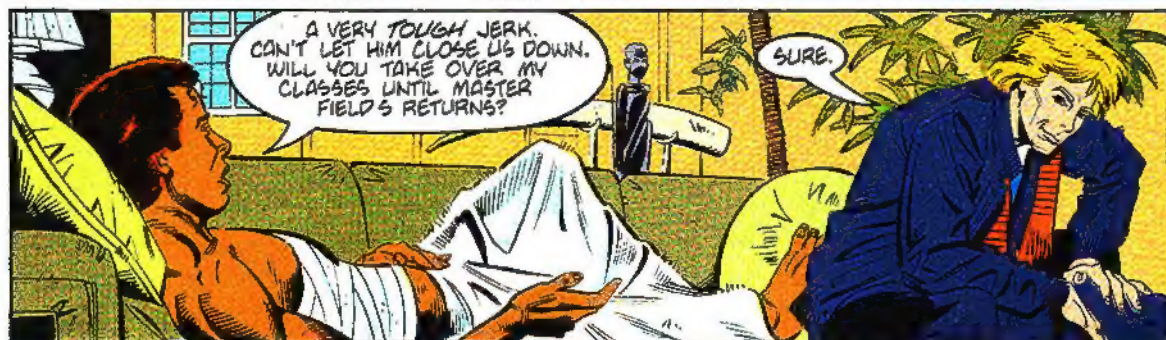
jim sanders m
inks

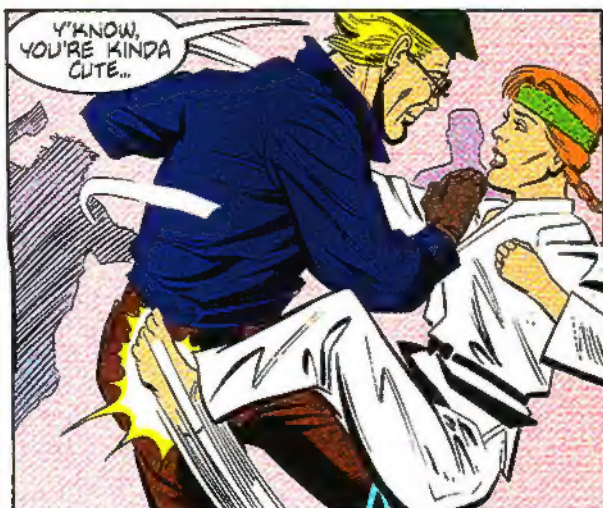
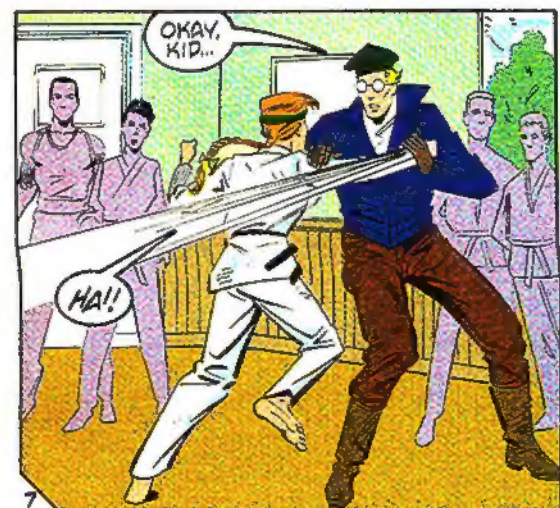
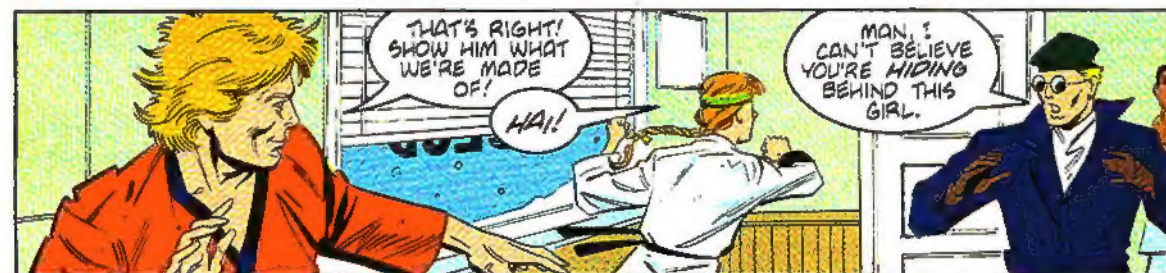
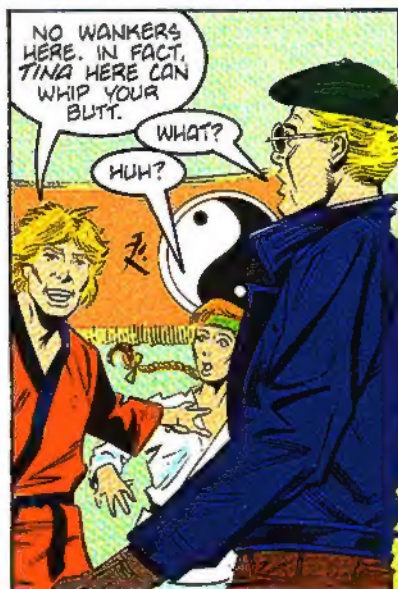
willie schubert
letters

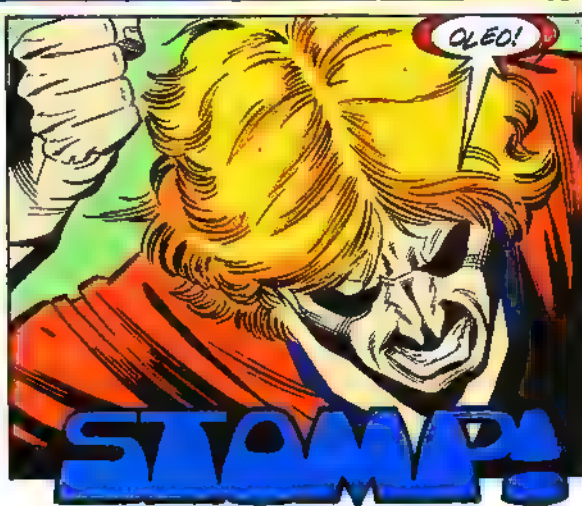
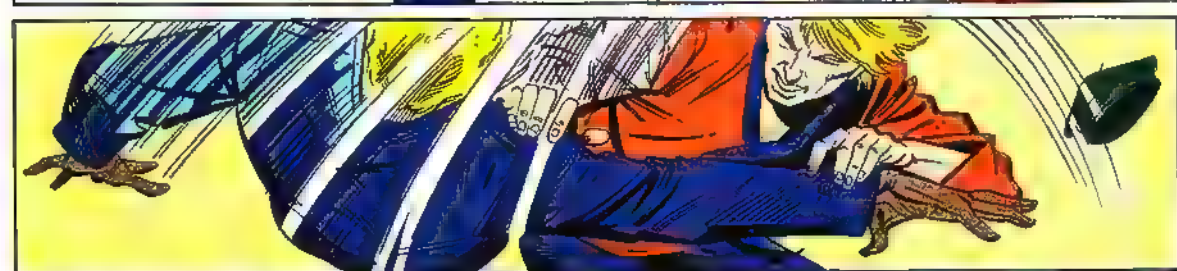
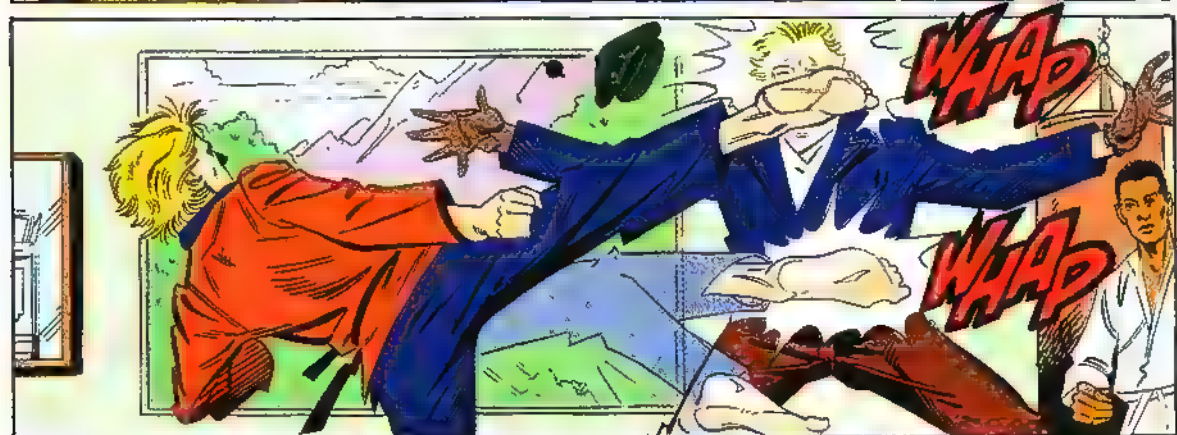
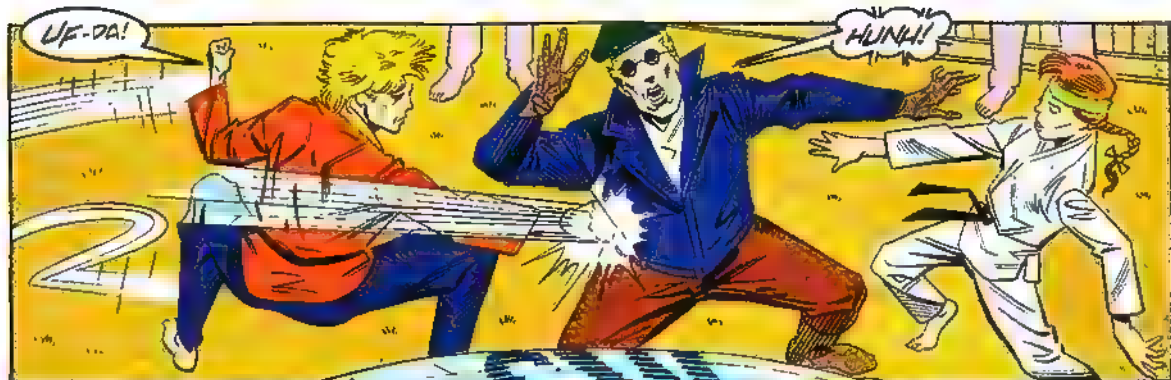
linda lessmann
colors

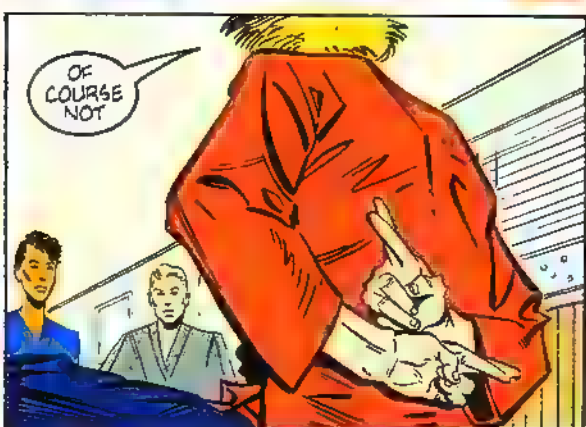
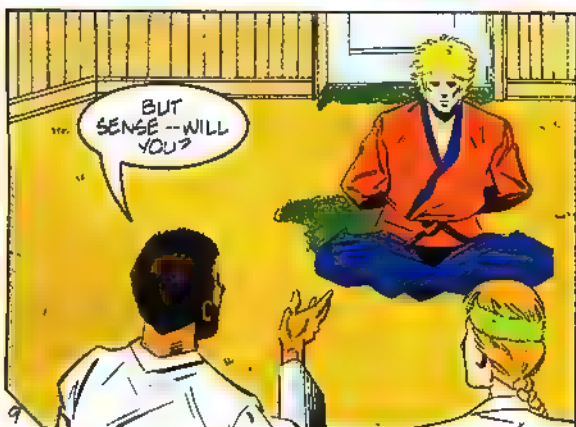
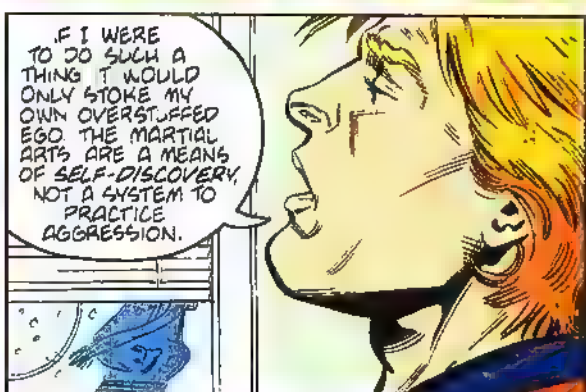
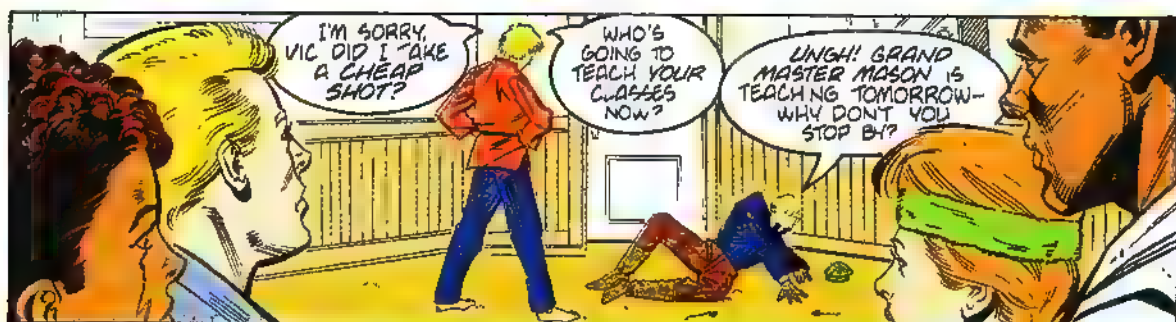
rick oliver
questions

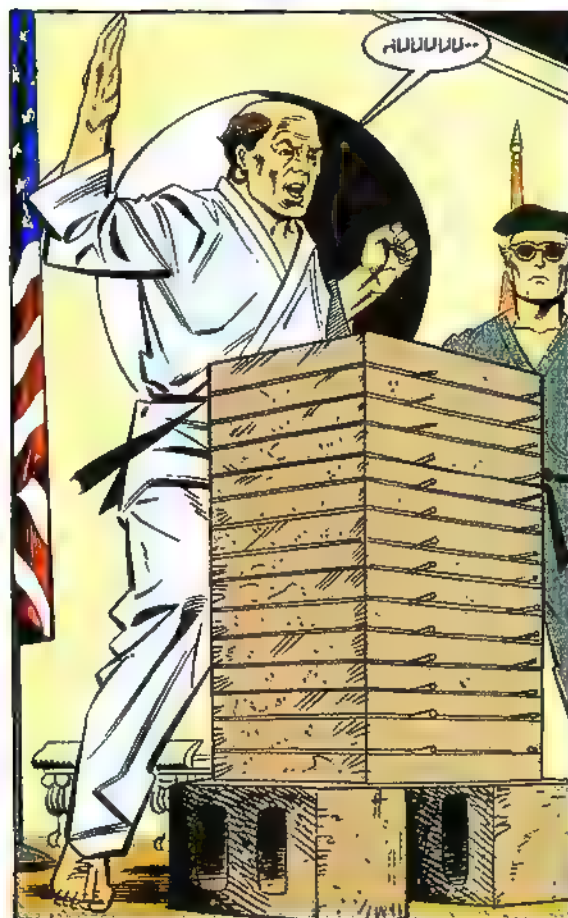
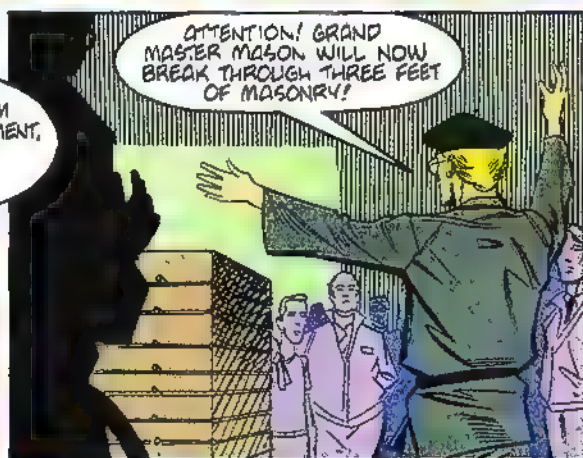
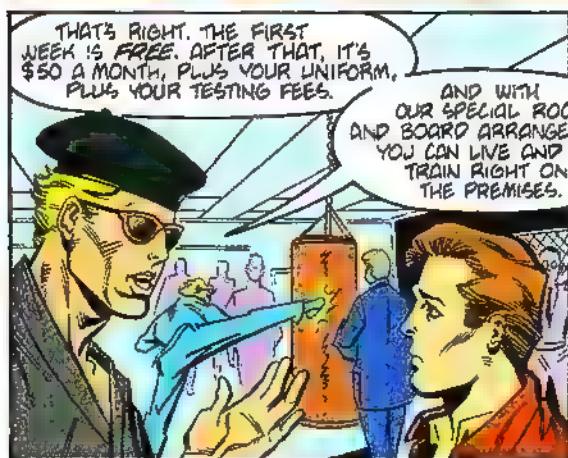
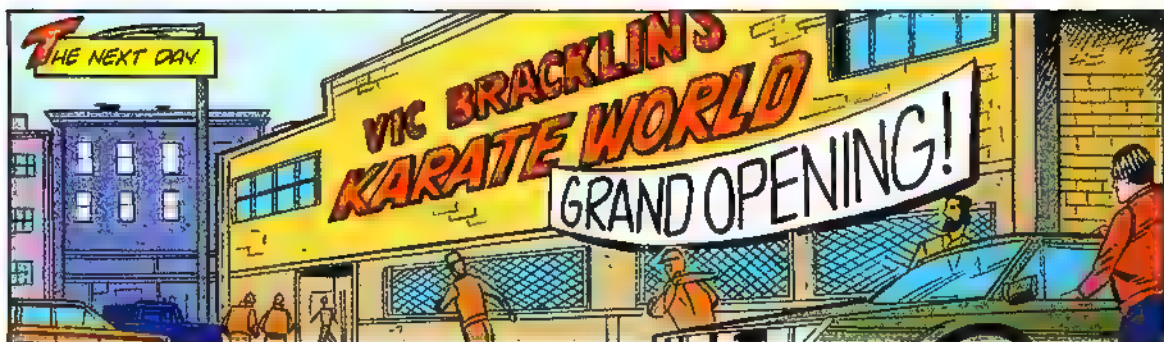


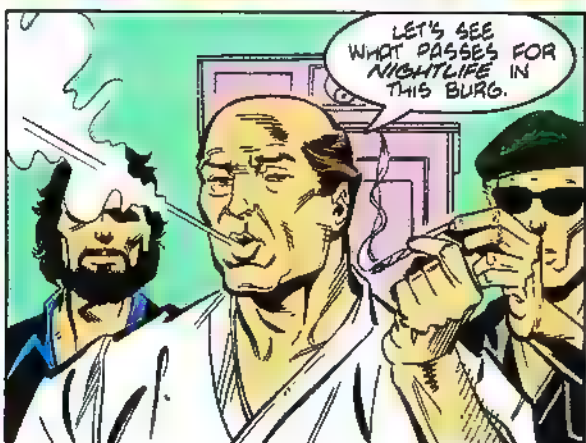
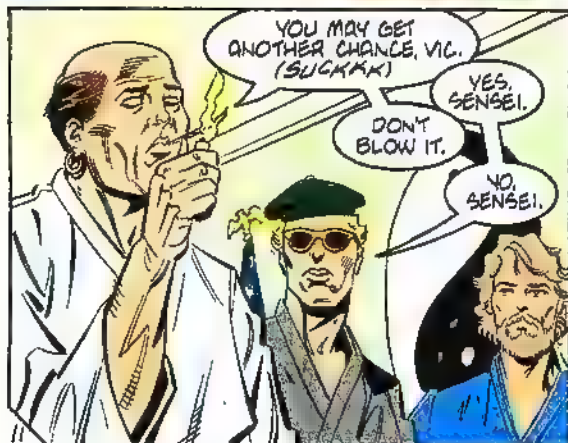
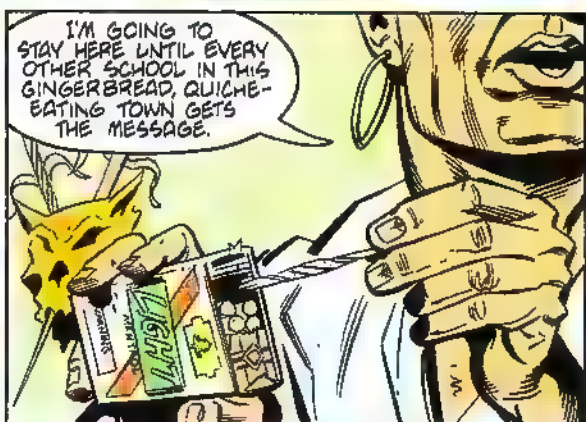
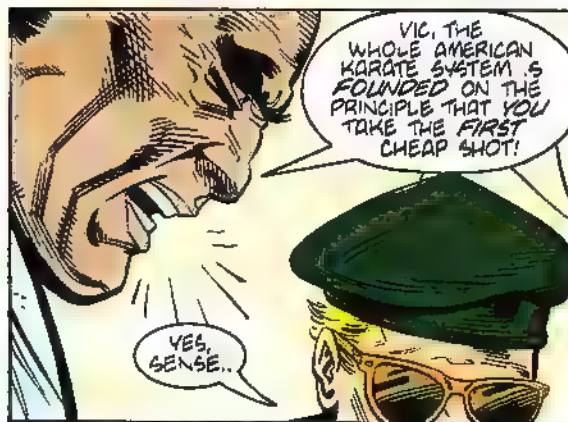
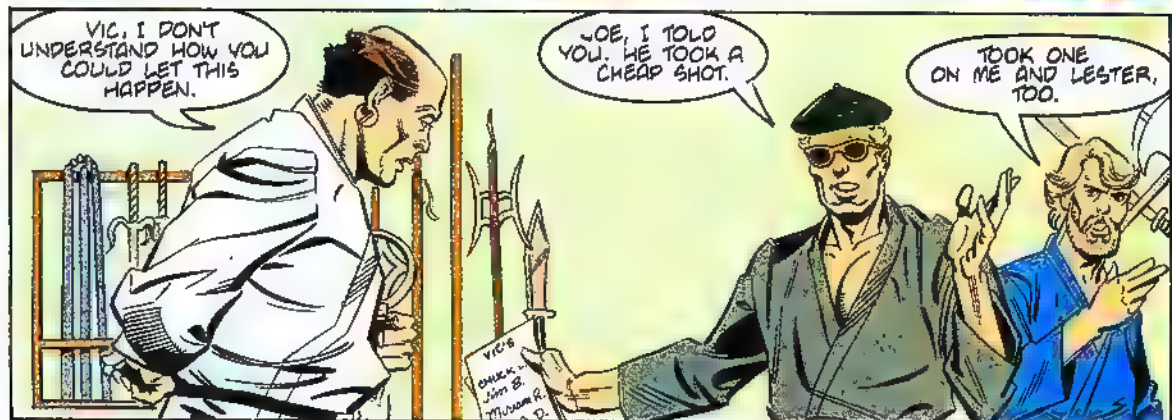
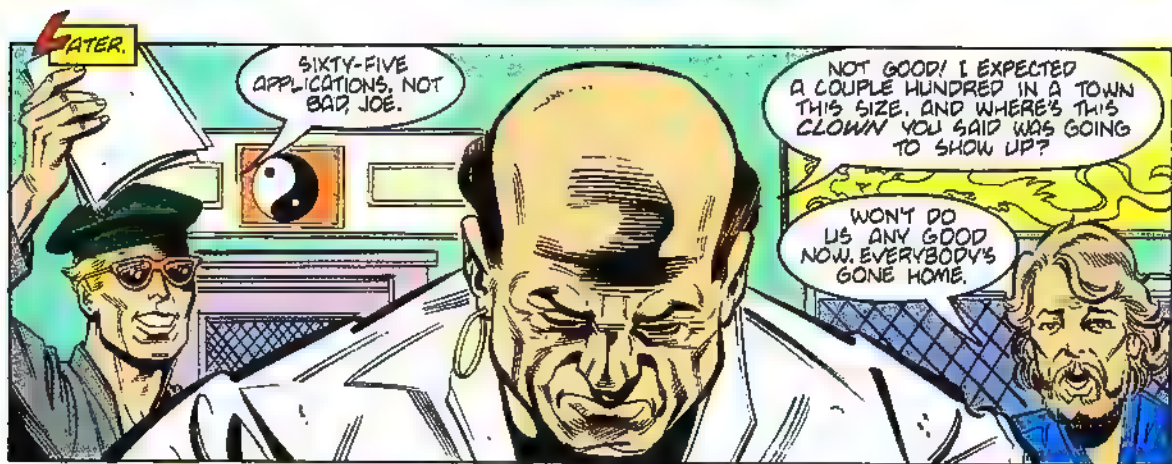












FIRST NOTES

There's no getting around it — comics just aren't what they used to be. There seems to be some confusion as to what they are now; but everyone agrees that they are definitely... *different*.

This is a concept that even I can grasp. Our comics are certainly different. There's no doubt about that. Yes sir. Different. Innovative. There's just no telling what we will do next. We spend a lot of time thinking of ways to expand the comics market — which usually means doing something different. Like adapting the classic poem *Beowulf*. Like interjecting realism into comics such as *Jon Sable, Freelance and Whisper*. Like taking a new approach to the "superhero" concept in *Badger and Nexus*. Like introducing Japanese comics to the American market with *Lone Wolf and Cub*.

Comics with a difference. Not the image normally conjured up when your average Joe thinks about "comics." So we better slap a rating system on them.

Say what? A rating system? Three and a half years ago when we introduced *American Flagg!* — one of the most innovative comics of the decade — there wasn't any talk about rating systems. Have irate parents begun to call the police upon seeing the latest issue of *Grimjack*? Is *Shatter* too risqué for younger readers? If the answer to either of these questions is "yes," nobody's told me about it.

So why all this recent talk about rating systems? Why are some otherwise responsible individuals lobbying for a comics rating system potentially as stultifying and arbitrary as the outmoded Comics Code?

Why? Because of a handful of irresponsible publishers.

There are those who confuse bad taste with "artistic freedom" and mistake vulgarity for "progressive thinking." In short, there are some publishers who will print pretty much anything.

First Comics is not one of them. We have a set of guidelines for our comic books. We always have. The rules are simple: We don't use any words or portray any scenes in our comics that you couldn't hear or see on network television. It may be a fine line of distinction; but the important point is that there *is* a line. On rare occasions, we inadvertently cross that line. Mistakes happen. A rating system won't eliminate those infrequent mistakes. There are plenty of "Code Approved" comics that violate the current Comics Code.

A few of our graphic novels use language that is expressly excluded from our regular comic books; but that's about as far as we go. The advertising and promotion for our English language translation of the Japanese Samurai epic, *Lone Wolf and Cub*, will advise consumers and retailers that this material is "For Mature Readers," because Japan -

ese comics standards are considerably different from ours, and we feel we have a responsibility to inform the public in advance.

But this is the exception that proves the rule. With the vast majority of comics we publish, we exert the proper restraint and control necessary to obviate the need for any warning labels or rating systems.

Why? Because First Comics is a dependable, responsible publisher, interested in expanding the comics market, not restricting it. If we can appeal to a wider audience by eliminating a couple offensive words here and a few gratuitous scenes there, then it's in our best interest to convince creators to moderate their approach rather than restrict their readership with a warning label or a rating system.

And if a rating system is imposed on comics, it won't be because of anything published by First Comics.

— Rick Oliver



FIRST IN FEBRUARY

Nexus #33: What happens when the Dude takes a few months off? He comes back at full throttle with a tour de force as Kreed and Sinclair, two seemingly unstoppable killing machines, threaten to destroy an entire planet! By Mike Baron, Steve Rude and John Nyberg. Plus *Tales of Judah* by Roger Salick and Al Vey. Deluxe series.

Badger #24: When Badger takes over a friend's karate class he finds there's a new martial arts school in town. One with nasty-looking students, dubious morals and one hard rule — always get in the first "Cheap Shot." By Mike Baron, Bill Reinhold and Jim Sanders. Plus *Clonezone* by Baron and Mark A. Nelson. Deluxe series.

Evangeline #2: The origin of Evangeline begins to unfold as she remembers her childhood, her first encounter with brutal violence, and the terrible choices that would determine her future. By Chuck Dixon, Judith Hunt and Ricardo Villagran. Deluxe series.

Ghostbusters #4: Jake and the gang investigate strange happenings in the Florida Everglades. By Hilarie Staton, Howard Bender, and Paul Abrams. Based on Filmation's new animated cartoon show on the air in over 80% of the U.S. television markets.

Grimjack #35: This issue sets the scene for the death of a very major character in next month's third anniversary issue. John Gaunt tackles the Lawkillers in a cataclysmic confrontation with far-reaching repercussions that will alter the very nature of *Grimjack*. By John Ostrander and Tom Mandrake. And *Munden's Bar* by Ostrander and Jan Duursema.

Whisper #7: Alexis Devin has died, disappeared, been deleted. But Diane Young is starting a new life in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo — and so is Whisper. By Steven Grant and Norm Breyfogle. Bi-monthly series.

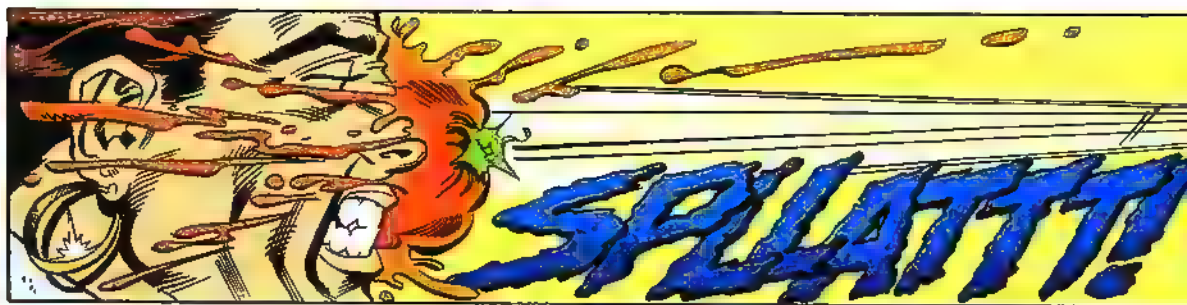
American Flagg! #41: Reuben and company find a not-quite-deserted robot factory in the desert outside of Las Vegas. Something very weird is going on, but not as weird as Luther Ironheart's reaction! By Marc DeMatteis and Mark Badger.

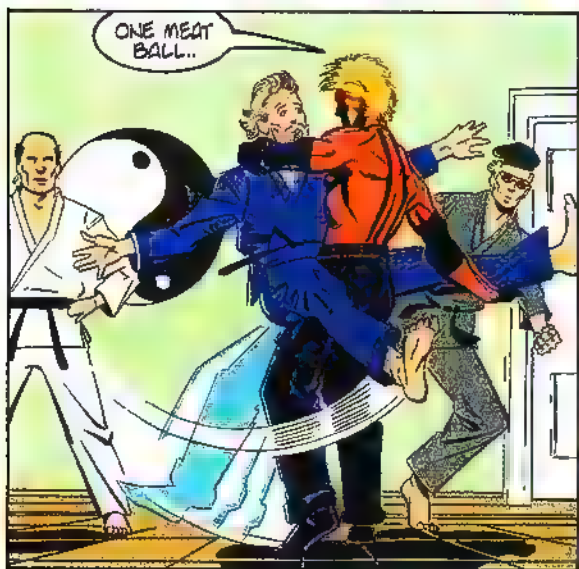
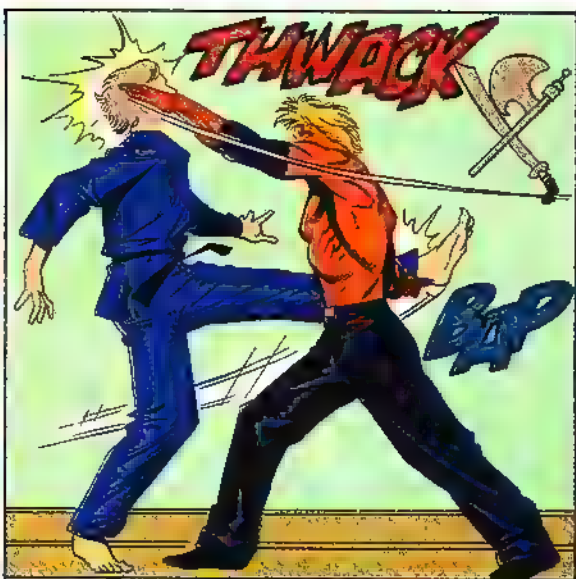
Dynamo Joe #8: Pomru decides to run some new "experiments" on Dynamo Joe. Little knowing the Enemy has some experiments of their own in mind using — *gremlins*? By Phil Foglio, Doug Rice and Brian Thomas. And *Cargonauts* by Foglio and Paul Guinan.

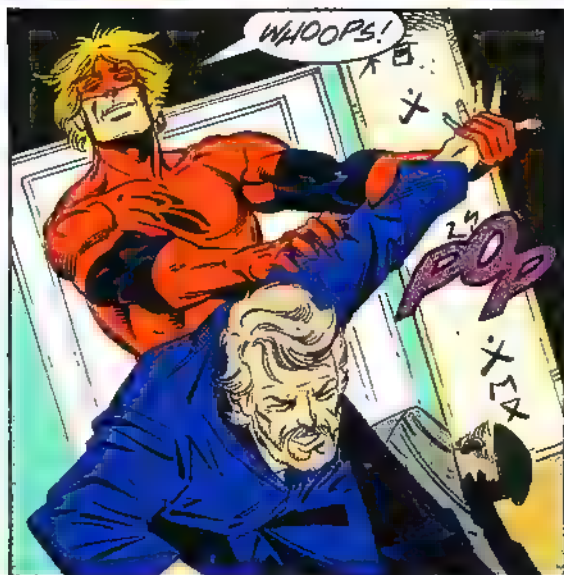
Jon Sable, Freelance #48: Jon is asked to handle the security for a visit by royalty to a small European duchy. And his first official act when he arrives? To get kidnapped! By Mike Grell and Mike Manley. Deluxe series.

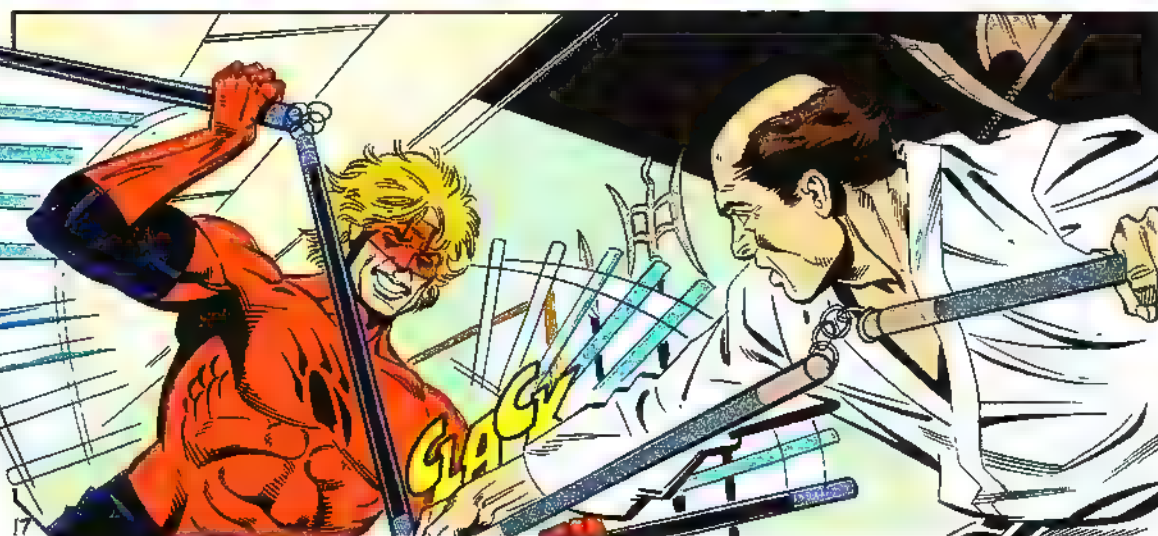
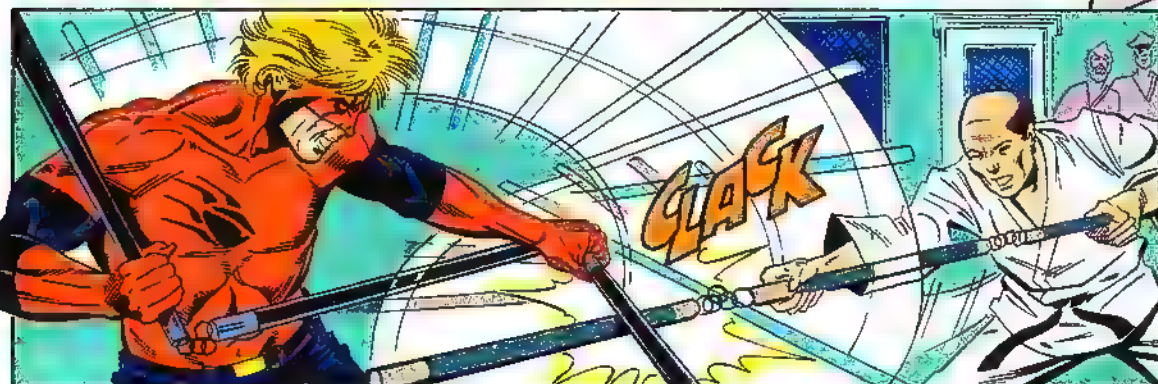
Elric: Weird of the White Wolf #5: The conclusion of Michael Moorcock's *The Singing Citadel* by Roy Thomas, Michael T. Gilbert and George Freeman. Deluxe, bi-monthly series.

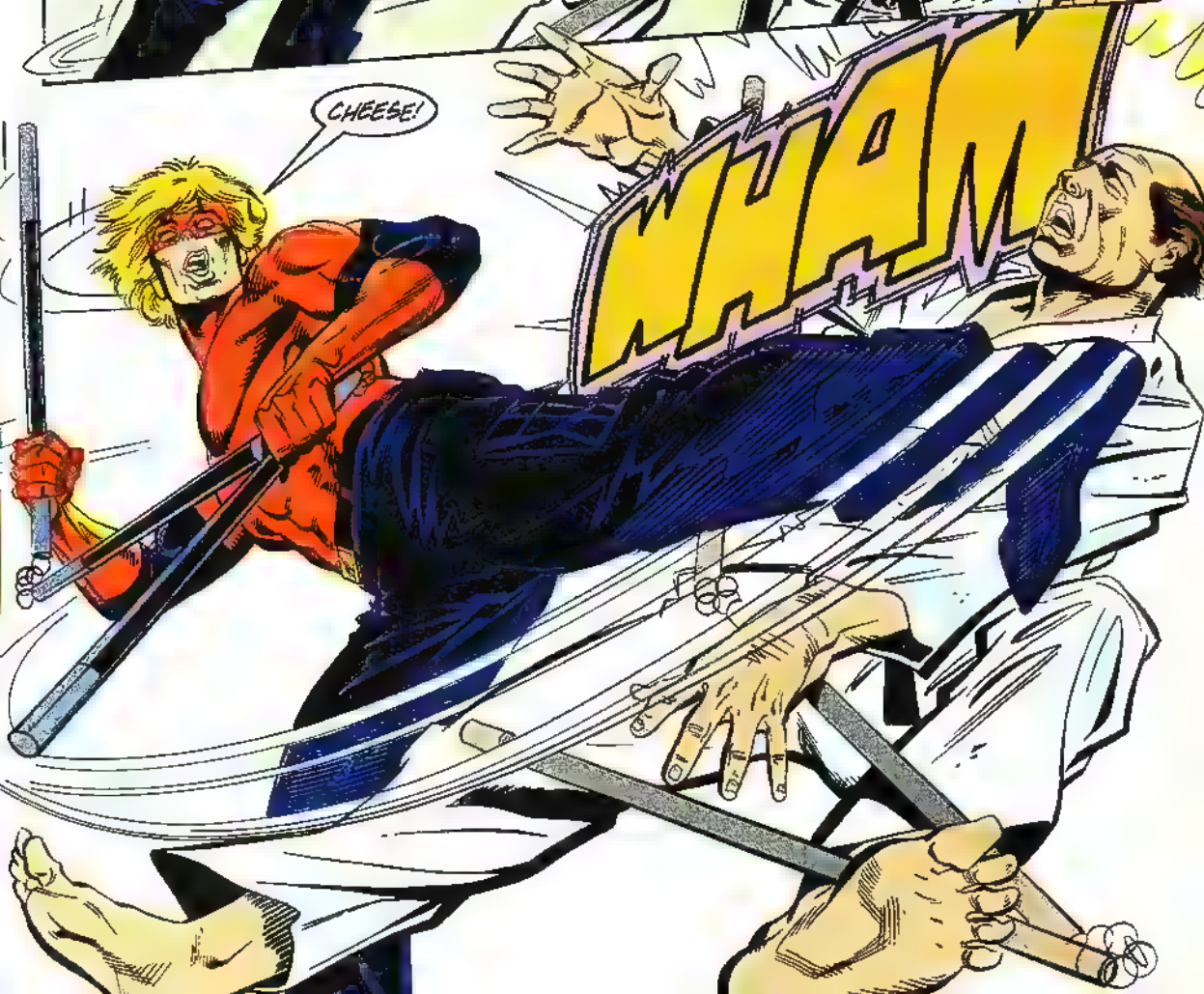
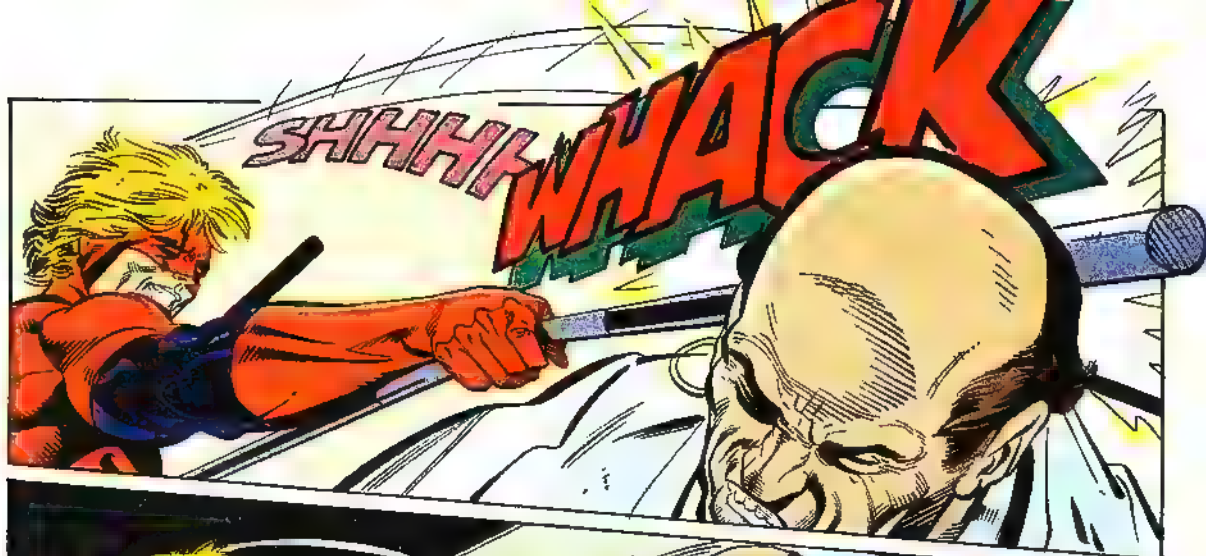
Shatter #9: The first computerized comic enters a new phase as renowned computer artist Charlie Athanas takes the artistic helm, utilizing the most recent software and hardware developments to steer *Shatter* on a new course of unparalleled, high-tech graphic storytelling. Deluxe, bi-monthly series.

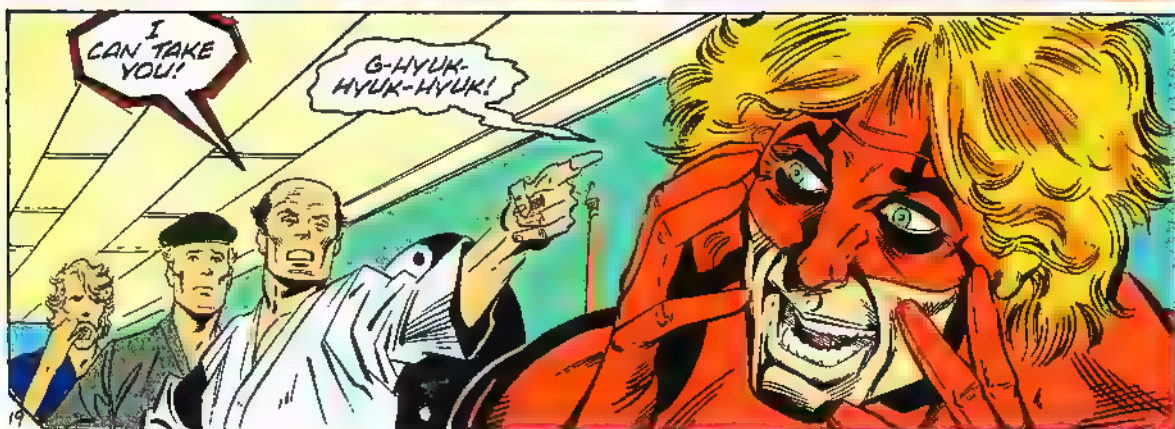
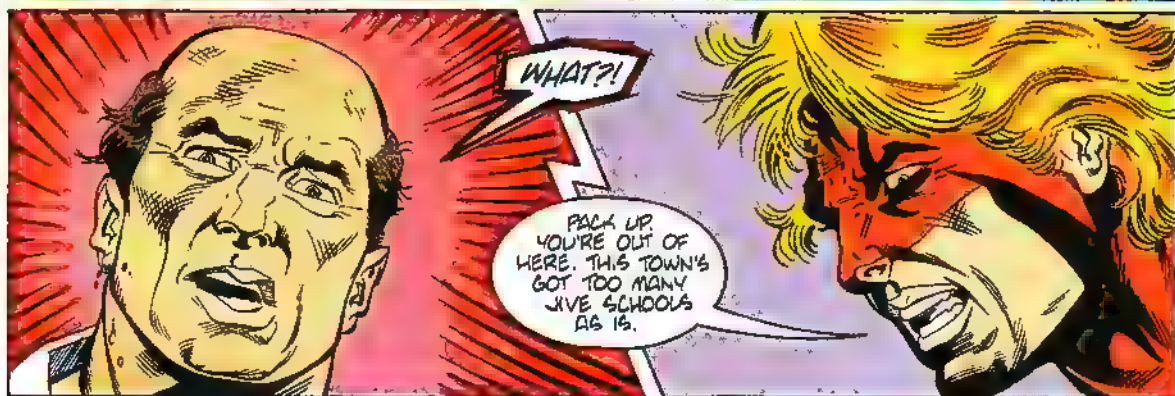
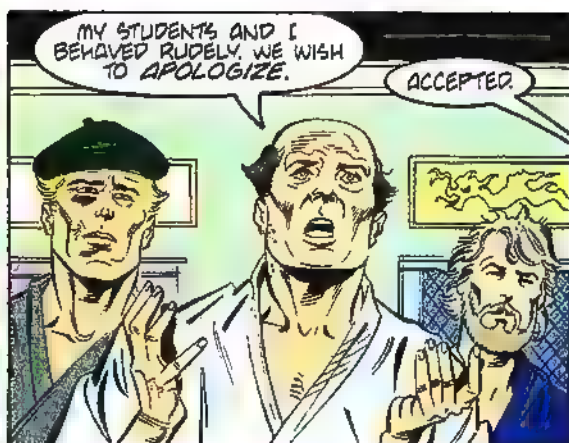
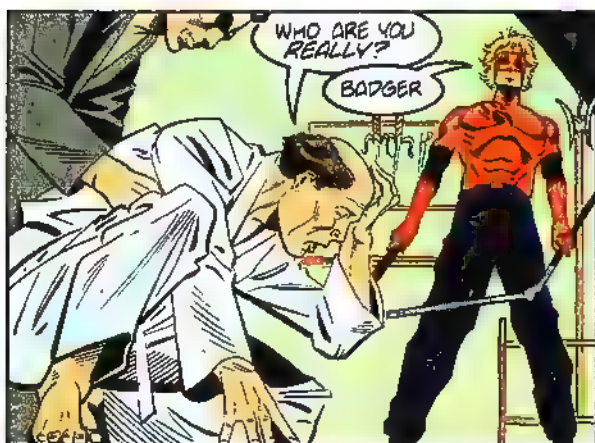


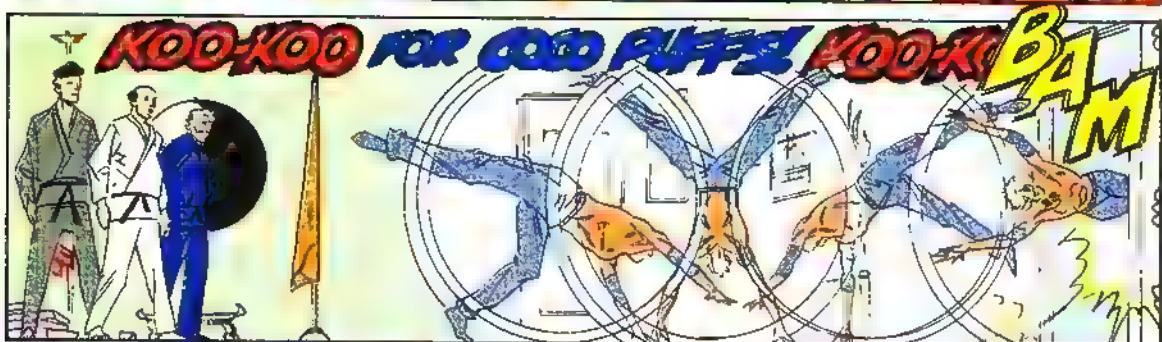












HAZARD

ZONE, BABY, SWEETHEART! THEY'RE NOT GOING TO LET US IN! THIS PLACE HAS BLACKMARKED JEWS FOR SIX CENTURIES, NOT TO MENTION LIZIGATORS!

OH, SUGAR, SUGAR-- YE OF LITTLE FAITH!

SLITHERING SANDS COUNTRY CLUB

TALES from the CLONEZONE

WANTED BY SHERUFF BARON

WORDS

SIGNS BY VERBAGE 13

PICTURES NELSON

30264-23

"LETTERS" SCHUBERT

764231-6

"COLORS" C HAWK
241VES-52
"FINGERS" OLIVER
624-44-11

ZONE, WE'RE RISKING MAJOR HUMILIATION.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS RUDY "IRONLUNGS" SUGARMAN SPEAKING! LISTEN! I GOT A PLAN.

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS WALK IN BACKWARDS AND SAY WE'RE COMING OUT!

THAT'S THE DUMBEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD.

TRUST ME

JUST A SECOND, YOU TWO. WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?

MY DEAR FELLOW WE'RE GOING HOME AFTER A GRUELLING EIGHTEEN HOLES. I WAS GRATIFIED TO BREAK EIGHTY.

HERE YOU ARE MY GOOD MAN. I HAD A GOOD DAY, SO YOU SHOULD HAVE A GOOD DAY.

YES, SIR. THANK YOU, SIR!

MY DEAR THING, WE WOULD LIKE TO RENT A CART AND PLAY EIGHTEEN HOLES. THE NAME'S CLONEZONE.

YES, SIR. IF YOU DON'T MIND TEAMING WITH ANOTHER TWOSOME, WE HAVE AN IMMEDIATE OPENING.

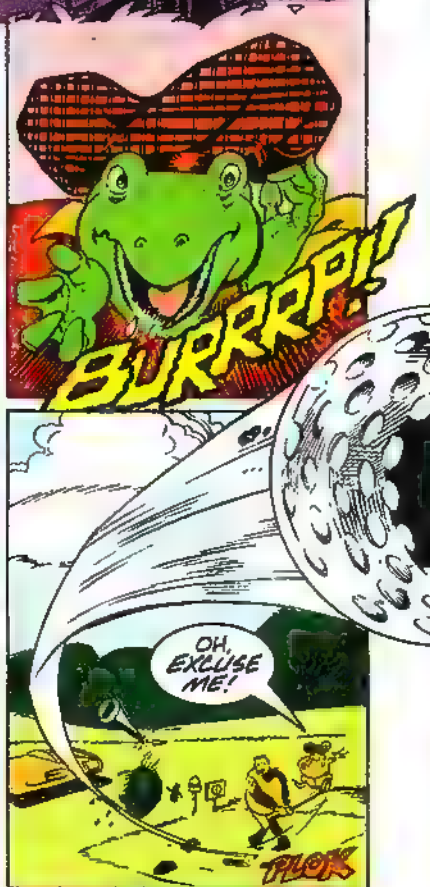
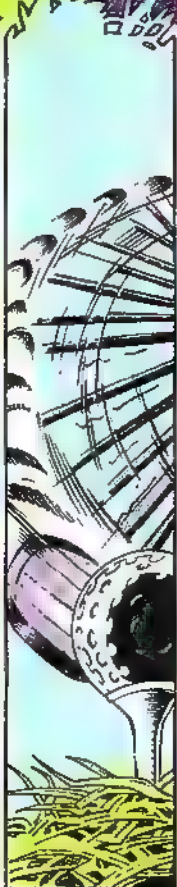
GREETINGS, CLONEZONE THE HILARIATOR, AND THIS IS MY FRIEND SUGARMAN, ALSO MY AGENT, SHOULD YOU NEED ENTERTAINMENT FOR A BACHELOR PARTY OR LODGE MEETING.

PLEASD TO MEET YOU, GREG NIXDORF OF INTERSTEL AMAL. ANYTHING THAT COSTS MONEY, WE GOT IT, AND THIS IS OUR VP IN CHARGE OF MARKETING, BOB WOOD.

HOWAHYA?

A FRIENDLY BET TO MAKE IT INTERESTING? \$10 A POINT WHAT DO YOU SAY?

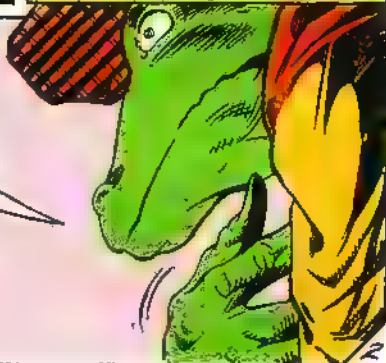
WHY NOT?

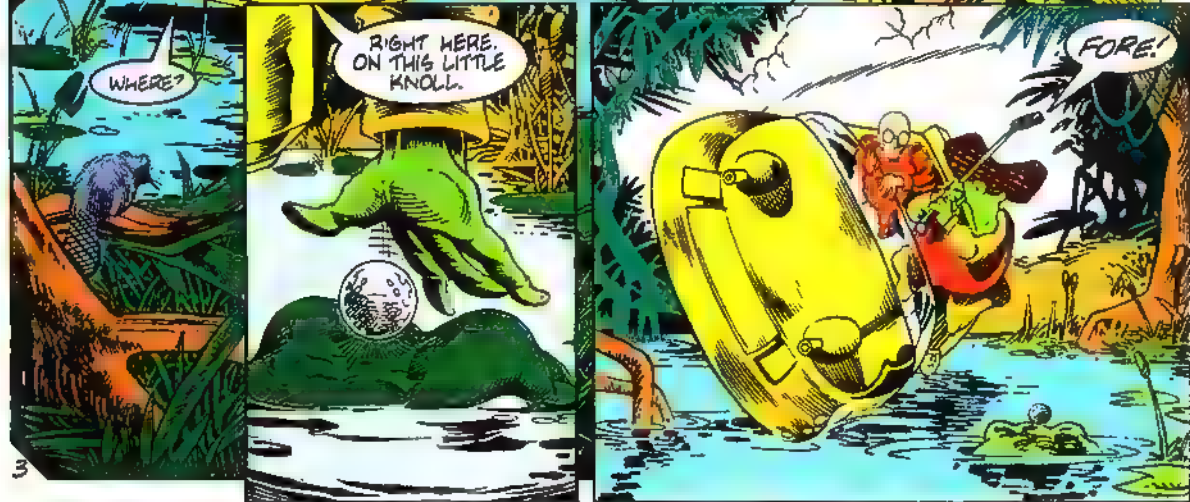
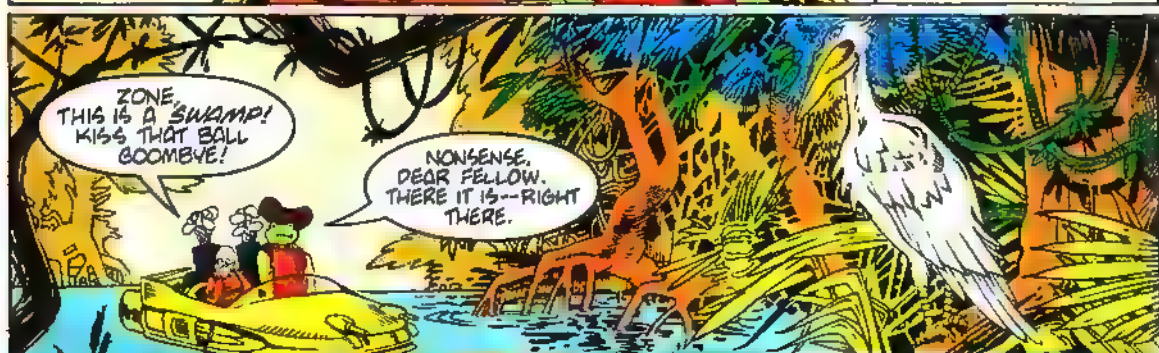
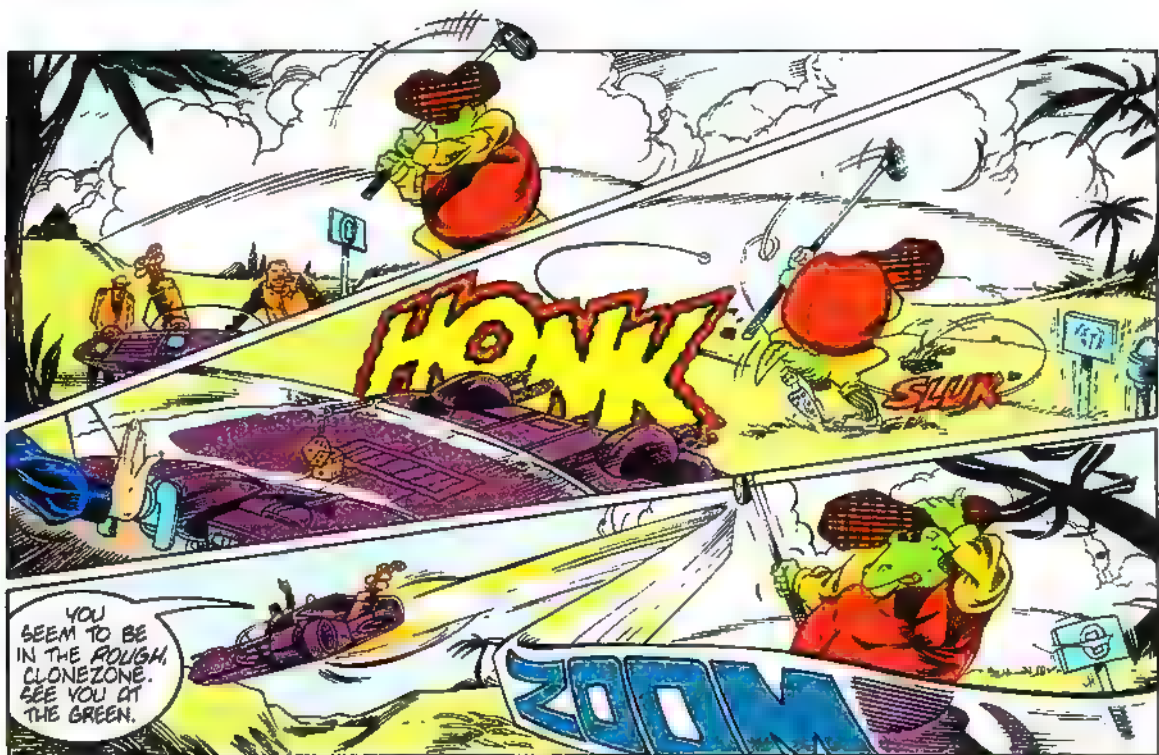


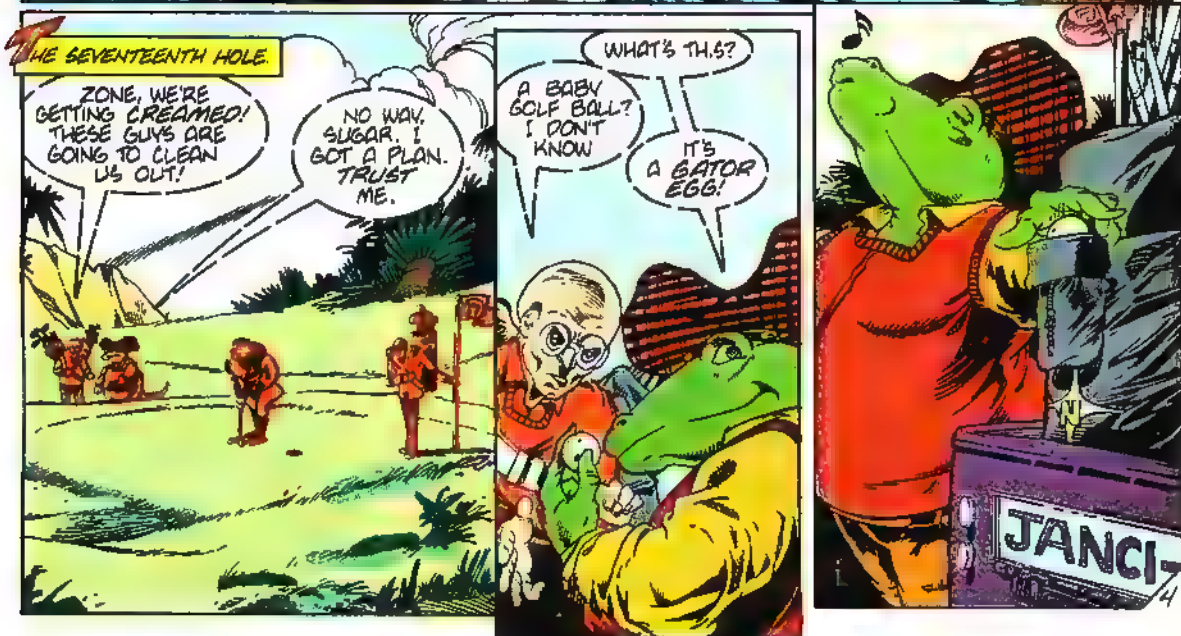
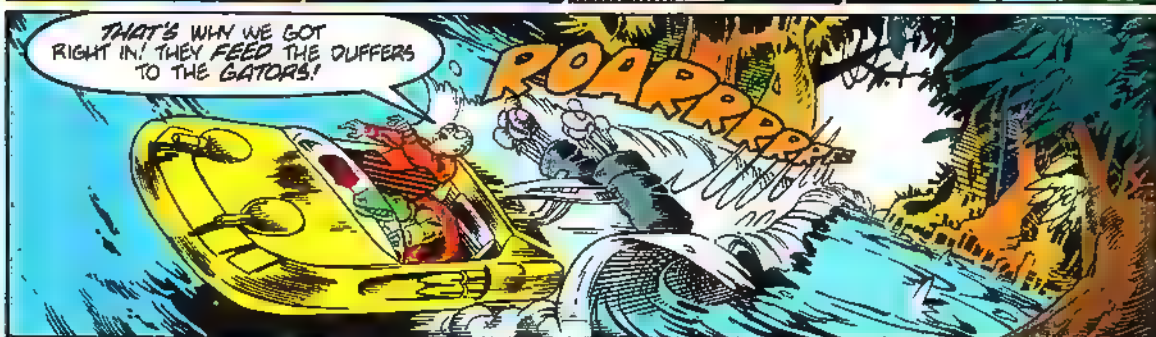
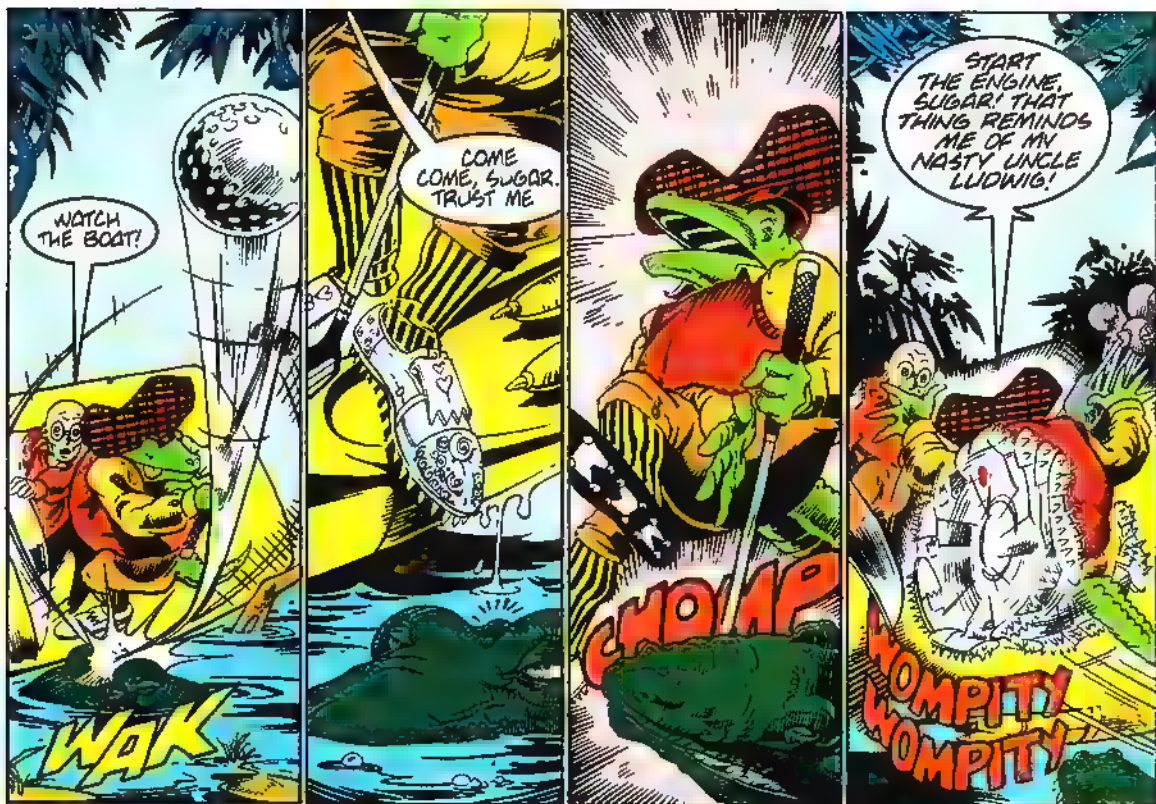
SO! THAT'S HOW IT IS, IS IT?

NOT AT ALL, MISTER NIXDORF, NOT AT ALL! MY ABJECT APOLOGIES! TAKE THE SHOT OVER IF YOU WISH

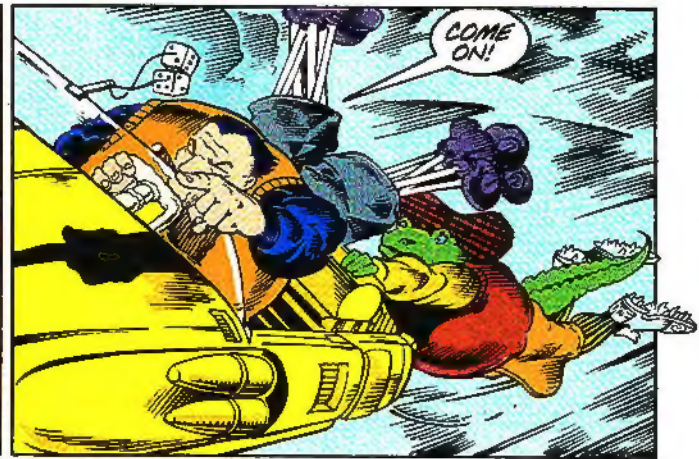
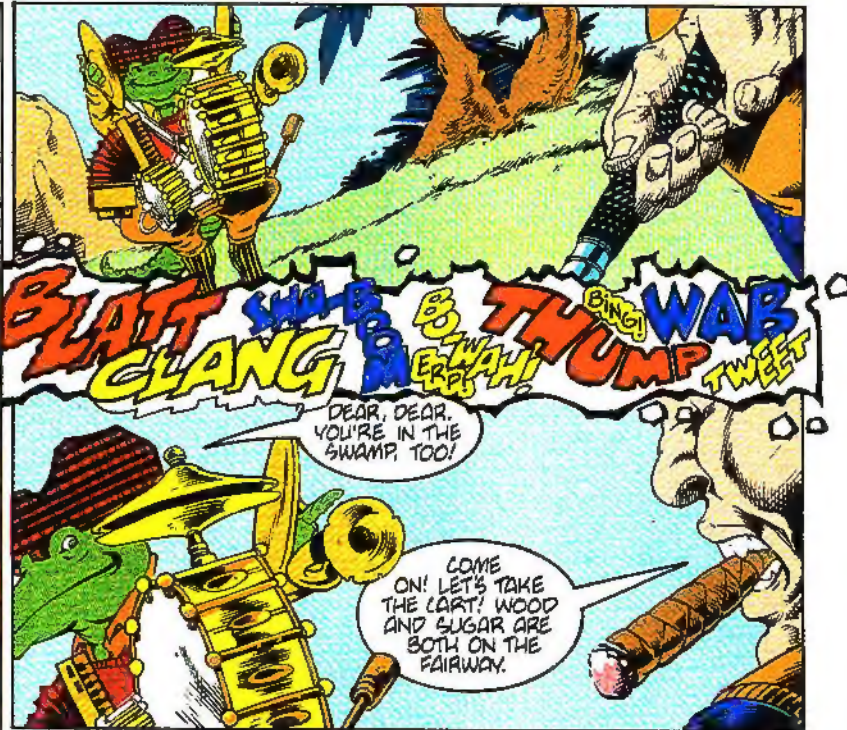
I CAN PLAY THAT BALL! YOU'RE UP.

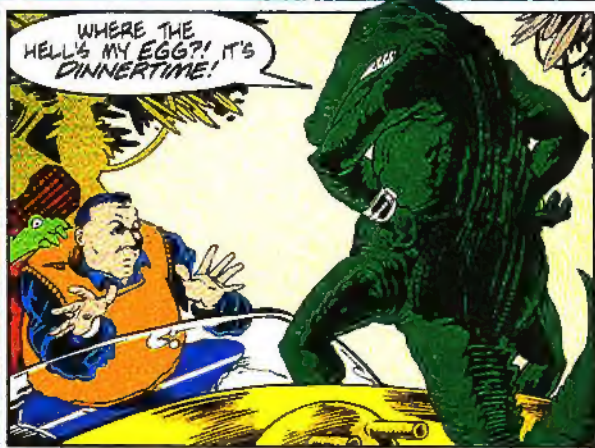
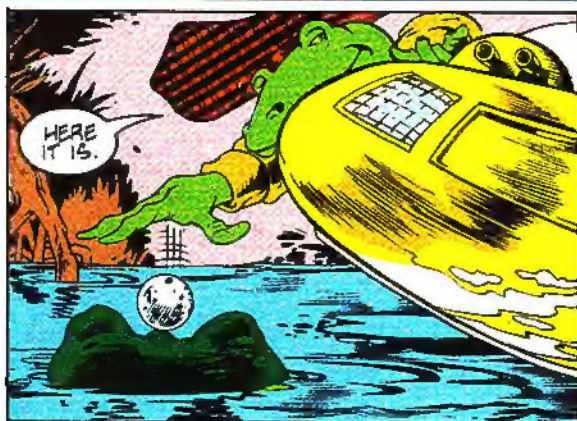
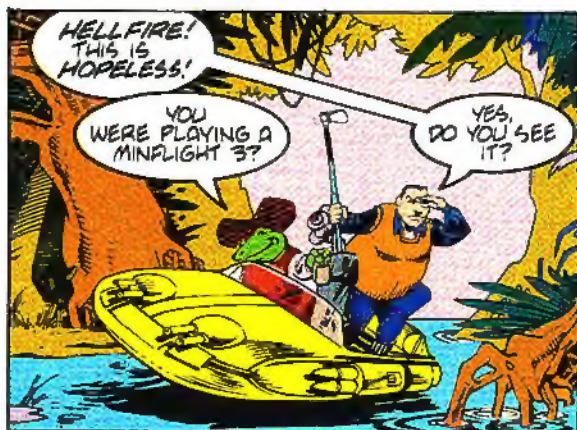






THE EIGHTEENTH TEE. BETWEEN NIXDORF'S
EXPERT PLAY AND THE ZONE'S EXPERT
SLEAZERY, THE SCORE IS VERY CLOSE.
NIXDORF/WOOD ARE AHEAD BY
34 POINTS.





Dear LARRY,:

C/O FIRST COMICS
435 N. LASALLE
CHICAGO IL
60610

Dear Badgers:

I have been reading this psychotic Badger ninja guy's comic (no relation to any of those suck up parody after parody comics), and it is the only one out of about ten comics I collect that I still want to read.

Though there is one problem: I love reading the Badger's dialogue in appearances in other First comics like Nexus, because the Badger is so funny in these comics. I just wish that Badger would be equally funny in his own series.

Oh, and I gotta tell you that I just loved the roach scene on page 7, panels 4 and 6 in issue #21.

Answer these two questions for me: Who is Fred the Wonder Guppy, and where did Badg's motorcycle shove off to? I think Badg deserves a new one, don't you? Or maybe a big red truck. What am I talking about, Badg is a cycle kinda guy, isn't he?

Jonathan Romano
16907 Ave. De Santa Ynez
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

If you liked that roach scene, just wait until you see the two-part "Roach Wrangler" story coming up in issues #26 and #27 — with pencils and inks by Bill Reinhold.

As for Fred, it doesn't matter anymore. He's dead, Jon.

Arrrrgh!!!

Okay, so I was dumb then. Last summer I went to the Atlanta Fantasy Fair, and as I was waiting for a friend I happened to come across a table with a First Comics representative at it. I had never read any First Comics and really

wasn't very impressed. I mean all I saw were these drawings of a crazy lunatic in red pajamas, a guy wearing punk glasses, and a girl in a ninja costume. Who ever heard of them?

God, was I dumb! About a week later I just happened to see a Badger in a local comic store and picked it up just to see. Well, I am now well on my way to having the entire set of Badger with all the cross-overs. I know I should have talked to him, but I didn't know. Does anyone know how to turn back time?

The Voice
1555 Heath Lane

Talked to whom? The badger you picked up in the store (be careful — they have very sharp teeth!) or the First Comics representative? If it was the latter, don't worry — it was only me.

*And now that you have a complete run of **Badger**, go out and pick up the guy in the punk glasses (**Nexus**) and the girl in the ninja costume (**Whisper**).*

Dear Larry:

I have been told that I look and act like Badger; so I figures I should check him out. The first issue I got was 17, and I loved it! And I play the harmonica, too!

Since then I've picked up all the back issues I could find, and I want to dress the part; so I tried to find a t-shirt. But my local store said there is no way they could get me one. Can you help me? Please, you must!

P.S. How did Badge know about State Street and the Solstice Parade? Does he hang out in Santa Barbara?

P.P.S. When do we get a Badger-Groo cross-over?

Chris Blunt
5277 Calle Barquero
Santa Barbara, CA 93111

*What you need is a Badger costume, not a t-shirt. Badger makes his own. So does Mike Baron. You should, too. Or else go back to your retailer and tell him **Imagin-If** makes Badger t-shirts, and he should order a billionty-two today!*

Dear Larry:

"The Phantom of Bascom Hill" wasn't as looney as we are usually used to seeing when it comes to our pal, Badger. The roach-eating sequence was repulsive. On the whole, the story was good, but not up to par with what you have been doing. I enjoyed the three-sectional staff fight sequence. I also approve of the synopsis page at the front of the book and the expanded letter section.

One thing I'd like to see handled in Badger is how he managed to master several martial arts, when it takes most people a lifetime to master one. I think it would make a great story and give us a little more insight on the Badger, his training and his past. I mean, to master so many styles of defense/fighting is truly exceptional. But then so is the Badger. It would be a great story, don't you think?

P.S. I cast my vote for a Bill Reinhold poster.

Frank Rosenberger
8510 182 St. #109
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada, T5T 1L8

How about a Badger poster by Bill Reinhold instead?

And if you thought that roach scene was disgusting, just wait until you see the two-part "Roach Wrangler" story coming up in issues #26 and #27 — with pencils and inks by **Bill Reinhold**.

Hmm... I just had a peculiar feeling of *deja vu*.

Dear Larry:

I've been living in Madison for almost three months, and I haven't seen the Badger anywhere. I've seen jaywalkers, litterbugs, and lots of drunken undergraduates, but I have never seen the Badger mete out justice to any of them.

So I think you should stop making the Badger go off to France and Asia, and let him stay in Madison where he belongs.

Karen Williams
2301 Cypress Way
Madison, WI 53713

And all this time I thought it was **Mike Baron's** idea. Hey, are there any listings for Nexus or Yeti? Horatio Hellpop? Bigfoot?

If there truly is a Larry:

What ever happened to those nasty-slimy-vicious creatures from another dimension? Oh, I'm sure a lot of people out there would love to see the Badger going to millionaire's banquets, saving truffles in distress, and all that. But I for one feel that the witticism of the book latched onto the mysticism of it.

Anyone remember Lord

Weterlackus? Hmm? Or maybe they remember that Hamilton J. Thorndyke is in reality Ham-maglysthyth, druid priest semi-extraordinaire. Or do they remember the Yak? Or the Yeti? Or Wontkendonk? Or Meldrum? Or Hodag? And how did Judah Maccabee get home? When was the last time Badger sang surfing music while beating someone up? Have you stopped beating your wife? Do your friends know you're gay?

Christopher Cuggiano
Brooklyn, NY
Someplace Like Earth

So many questions, so little time. Hopefully, last issue answered a few of them, featuring both Yeti and a particularly hideous demon from another dimension.

Dear Mike:

If I had a dollar for everytime I've run across a story like "The Phantom of Bascom Hill," where the poor peaceloving guy becomes a disfigured monster and tries to screw up his old girlfriend's life, well, I'd be able to afford more books at the very least. But leave it to Mike Baron to take such a tired old plot and breathe new and exciting life into it.

If this story had been published by your Marvelous Competition, Badger probably would've traded several blows with odd Todd, rather than share some beers and bugs with him. We never would've been treated to the revealing dialogue that proved Eddie to be a bit of a dork, and we never would've

seen Badger save Doug from jumping out the window!

I've said it before, and I'll say it again: This is one of the very best comics out on the market today. You've got a lot to be proud of here.

Mark Haden Frazer
W39700 Sunnyfield Dr.
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

And all this time I thought Mark was some kind of crackpot. Just shows you how wrong an editor can be.



NEXT MONTH: Ducks in distress! Badger to the rescue! Another mildly irritating Clone-zone story! More letters! More surly responses! Exclamation points galore! **Mike Baron**, **Bill Reinhold**, and **Mark A. Nelson** all in one issue for a buck seventy-five! And finally, my name at the bottom of the last page for no particular reason!

— Rick Oliver

